

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A subcutaneous insertion device comprising:
a solid, substantially straight needle comprising a shaft, a first end, and a second end; and
an insulator covering at least a portion of the shaft;
wherein the first end of the needle is exposed and is configured for subcutaneous insertion into a patient; and
wherein an exterior surface of the insulator provides an outermost surface of the shaft.
2. (Original) The invention of claim 1 wherein the first end of the needle has a length comprising from about one to about twenty percent of the needle.
3. (Original) The invention of claim 1 further comprising a conductor coupled to an exposed surface of the needle.
4. (Original) The invention of claim 3 wherein the conductor contacts at least a portion of the second end of the needle.
5. (Original) The invention of claim 1 wherein the insulator comprises a biocompatible coating.
6. (Original) The invention of claim 5 wherein the coating is selected from the group consisting of an epoxy resin, polyurethane, polytetrafluoroethylene, and combinations thereof.

7.-24. (Canceled)

25. (New) The invention of claim 1 wherein a portion of the second end of the needle is radially surrounded by a conductor.

26. (New) The invention of claim 1 wherein a portion of the second end of the needle is radially surrounded by a coiled metal wire conductor.

27. (New) A subcutaneous insertion device comprising:
a solid, substantially straight electroacupuncture needle
comprising a shaft, a first end, and a second end;
wherein the first end of the needle is exposed;
wherein an insulator covers at least a portion of the shaft and
provides an outermost surface of the shaft; and
wherein a portion of the second end of the needle is radially
surrounded by a conductor.

28. (New) The invention of claim 27 wherein the conductor is a coiled metal wire.